

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Wendy R. Ward)	
)	
Certificate 196005)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 8, 2005. On January 5, 2005, the Office of Teacher Certification sent Wendy R. Ward a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Ward received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Ward did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Ward's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Ward held a contract for the 2004-2005 school year with the Greenville County School District. On November 16, 2004, Ms. Ward notified her principal at Chandler Creek Elementary School that she intended to resign her position as a special education teacher, effective December 3, 2004. By letter of December 6, 2004, the District's Superintendent wrote to Ms. Ward advising her that her resignation could not be accepted because she had not complied with District Policy. On December 14, 2004, the District Board of Trustees voted to request that the State Board suspend Ms. Ward's certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Ward breached her contract with the Greenville County School District, warranting the suspension of Ms. Ward's 196005 for a period of one year, from March 8, 2005, through March 9, 2006. Should Ms. Ward wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 8, 2005